

# Berkley court waiving late fees on unpaid tickets

The temporary amnesty program is in effect now through Feb. 29

By Michael P. McConnell  
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BERKLEY -- Traffic-ticket scofflaws are getting a chance to set things right in Berkley's 45A District Court.

The court is waiving all additional late fees on unpaid tickets in a temporary ticket amnesty program if offenders come in and pay the original fines.

The amnesty is in effect and will last through Feb. 29.

District Court Judge William Sauer said the court offered a similar amnesty program six years ago and cleared up about a third of all the overdue traffic tickets.

"It gives people an opportunity to clear up holds they have on their driver's licenses and save money because we waive all the late fees," Sauer said.

Drivers with overdue traffic tickets going back up to 10 years are eligible to come in and pay only the original fine.

"It also generates a little extra income for the city and the state through the court," Sauer said.

Michael Zychowski, the magistrate and court administrator in Berkley, estimates the last ticket amnesty program brought in more than \$30,000 in overdue tickets.

"It was successful last time and we expect we'll have a similar success this time," Zychowski said.

Berkley District Court has identified all the unpaid traffic tickets in its files and received permission from the state to offer the amnesty to offenders, Zychowski said.

"We've got about 400 of these unpaid tickets," he said. "Obviously, we'd like to clear up as many as we possibly can."

Drivers with overdue traffic tickets can either show up at the court, 3338 Coolidge, or call (248) 658-3400.

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